

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
KITCHEN, et al. : Expected
: Group Art Unit: 2764
:
Application No: Unassigned (Rule 53(b):
Continuation of Appl. Serial No. : Expected
09/034,561 filed March 3, 1998). : Examiner: R. Alvarez
:
Filed: Concurrently :
:
For: ELECTRONIC BILL PROCESSING :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant
Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is filed concurrently with the filing of a continuation under 37 USC 1.53(b) of pending Application Serial No. 09/034,561, filed March 3, 1998. Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title to read --ELECTRONIC BILL PROCESSING WITH MULTI-LEVEL BILL INFORMATION STORAGE--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1.

Please add new claims 34-57 as follows:

--34. A method for processing and storing electronic billing information, comprising:

receiving, from a biller, bill information for a customer of the biller;

processing the bill information to generate bill data;

storing the generated bill data;

processing the bill data to generate bill summary information; and

storing the generated bill summary information.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein:
processing the bill information to generate the bill data
includes normalizing the bill information; and
the stored bill data is the normalized bill information.
36. The method of claim 34, further comprising:
retrieving the stored bill data; and
merging the retrieved bill data with a template to generate
bill detail information.
37. The method of claim 36, further comprising:
storing the generated bill detail information.
38. The method of claim 36, further comprising:
transmitting, via a network, the generated bill detail
information to the customer.
39. The method of claim 34, further comprising:
receiving a request, via the network, for a bill from the
customer;
processing the stored bill data to generate bill detail
information responsive to the received request; and
transmitting the generated bill detail information to the
customer responsive to the received request.
40. The method of claim 39, further comprising:
storing the generated bill detail information.
41. The method of claim 40, wherein the generated bill detail
information is stored in a cache.
42. The method of claim 34, further comprising:
transmitting the bill summary information to the customer
via a network responsive to a request from the customer for the
bill summary information.
43. The method of claim 34, wherein the bill information is
received from the biller via a network.
44. A system for processing and storing electronic billing
information, comprising:

a communications port configured to receive and transmit bill related information;

a memory configured to store bill related information; and

a processor in communication with the communications port and the memory and configured to 1) receive, from a biller and via a communications port, bill information for a customer of the biller, 2) process the bill information to generate bill data, 3) store the bill data in the memory, 4) process the bill data to generate bill summary information, and 5) store the bill summary information in the memory.

45. The system of claim 44, wherein:

processing the bill information to generate the bill data includes normalizing the bill information; and

the stored bill data is the normalized bill information.

46. The system of claim 44, wherein the processor is further configured to retrieve the stored bill data from the memory and merge the retrieved bill data with a template to generate bill detail information.

47. The system of claim 46, wherein the processor is further configured to store the generated bill detail information in the memory.

48. The system of claim 46, wherein the processor is further configured to cause the communications port to transmit the generated bill detail information to the customer via a network.

49. The system of claim 44, wherein the processor is further configured to 1) receive a request, via a network and from the communications port, for a bill from the customer, 2) process the stored bill data to generate bill detail information in response to the received request, and 3) cause the communication port to transmit, via the network, the generated bill detail information to the customer.

50. The system of claim 49, wherein the processor is further configured to store the generated bill detail information in the memory.

51. The system of claim 50, wherein:

the memory includes a cache portion; and
the generated bill detail information is stored in the
cache portion.

52. The system of claim 44, wherein the processor is further
configured to cause the communications port to transmit the bill
summary information to the customer via a network responsive to
a request from the customer for the bill summary information.

53. The system of claim 44, wherein the billing information is
received from the biller via a network.

54. A database for storing bill related information,
comprising:
generated bill data; and
summarized bill information in association with the
generated bill date.

55. The database of claim 54, wherein the generated bill data
is generated normalized bill data.

56. The database of claim 54, further comprising:
a template in association with the generated bill data.

57. The database of claim 56, further comprising:
detailed bill information corresponding to the stored
generated bill data and the stored temple, in association with
the generated bill data.--

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is directed to the accompanying 37 CFR 1.53(b) application, which is a Rule 53(b) continuation of pending Application Serial No. 09/034,561, filed March 3, 1998.

Claim 1 is pending in this application, claim 2-33 having been cancelled in the submittal of the Rule 53(b) continuation application. Claim 1 is cancelled by this preliminary amendment.

Claims 34-57 are added herein.

The title is amended to more fully describe the invention.

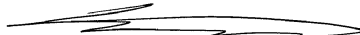
No new matter is added by this preliminary amendment.

New claims 34-57 are directed to an innovative electronic bill processing, storage, and presentation technique disclosed in the written description of the application as originally filed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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